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SENATOR LIU URGES RESIDENT TO CLAIM TAX REFUNDS

GLENDAL – Taxpayers should take advantage of a federal tax refund program before the deadline to file tax returns, Sen. Carol Liu announced.

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a refundable federal income tax offered to low- and moderate-income working individuals and families. It is widely recognized as the federal government's most effective antipoverty program, alleviating poverty for millions of low-income families and children every year. However, nearly 800,000 eligible Californians neglect to claim this refund, according to the New America Foundation. This amounts to over \$1 billion of EITC dollars going unclaimed every tax season. A statewide coalition of non-profits and government officials is working to reduce that number by half.

Liu and State Controller John Chiang are encouraging more Californians to apply for the EITC this tax season. Over XXXX people are signed up to attend the third "Free Tax Assistance" workshop (by appointment only) today at the Verdugo Jobs Center. Families making up to \$51,000 will meet with certified volunteers to help file Federal and State tax returns, which are due by April 15, 2013. The event aims to increase awareness and help lower the tax burden on low-income working families.

"At a time when families are struggling, the EITC can help them make ends meet," said Liu, D-La Canada Flintridge. "Too often families don't know about the program and miss out on the benefits. We can prevent this by making sure eligible families and individuals are aware that they qualify for the EITC and where they can find income tax preparation assistance to claim it."

If you may be eligible to receive this tax credit and free tax services, please call the IRS at (800) 906-9887, go to www.eitc.irs.gov, call 2-1-1, go to www.211.org; or go to Greater LA EITC at www.greaterlaeitc.org. Be sure to receive all the tax credits you deserve!

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